

- - REMARKS - -

Claims 1-13 were pending in the application. No amendments have been made pursuant to this response.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-9 have been allowed. Further discussion of these allowed claims is therefore unnecessary.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 10-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,761,621 to Kane et al. ("Kane"). The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 10 is directed to an electronic circuit unit having a circulator, wherein one end of each of three central conductors disposed at intervals of 120 degrees serves as an input and output terminal. This claim also requires that adjacent input and output terminals are connected by inductive elements. This structure, which is exemplified in Fig. 11 of the drawings for the present application, reduces the level of the output signal that is leaked an input and output terminal (i.e., which is not to be output by the Faraday Effect). These features and limitations are not disclosed or suggested by the prior art.

Kane is the only reference being asserted against claim 10. In particular, it has been asserted that Kane discloses adjacent input and output terminals that are connected by inductive elements, i.e., coil 331 as described at col. 4, lines 43. Applicants respectfully disagree. Element 331 is a cold rolled spring (CRS) that is used to "hold the ferrite 305 in contact with the resonator 311 when housing 327 is assembled using high permeability fasteners 333." (Kane at col. 4, lines 40-45.) It is therefore clear that spring 331 is not an inductor connecting adjacent input and output terminals. Independent claim 10 is therefore not rendered unpatentable by this prior art reference. Claims 11-13 are each dependent on claim 10 and are therefore likewise patentable.

The pending claims are believed to truly distinguish over the prior art and to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, such allowance is now earnestly requested. If for any reason the Examiner is not able to allow the application, he is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4273.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Milz", written over a horizontal line.

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